

Application No.: 09/704,667

Request for Reconsideration dated June 16, 2004.

Response to the Office Action dated March 16, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 20-23 are pending in the present application. No amendments were made by the present response. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following discussion.

Examiner's Interview

The Examiner's Interview on June 8, 2004 was much appreciated. As indicated in the Interview Summary, both Examiner Worku and Supervisory Patent Examiner Williams *agreed* that independent claims 1 and 3 distinguish over the cited prior art. Basically, the scanner 100 described in **Ohtsuki** (USP 5,920,758) appears to be a substantially rectangular box, with a substantially flat underside. The prior art does not disclose the claimed features of the housing of the optical reading apparatus having one thicker end (relative to the ends of the platen glass, between which the optical reading unit scans). In other words, there are 2 ends of the platen glass, and the scanner scans between these ends. Relative to these "ends," the housing is defined to have one thicker end. This is simply not disclosed in the cited prior art. For at least these reasons, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 over **Ohtsuki** should be withdrawn.

The dependent claims (*e.g.*, claims 2 and 5) further define a position of a control circuit board that is not taught or suggested in the cited prior art. The disclosures of **Ohtsuki** do not even describe the internal configurations for the scanner 100. Other specific features of other dependent claims are also not taught or suggested in **Ohtsuki**.

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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully Submitted,

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